T-522 ROSIE PARKS (skipjack) St. Michaels, Maryland

This vessel is a 46.2' long two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as skipjack. Built in 1955 in Wingate, Maryland by the noted boatbuilder Bronza Parks, the vessel was given to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in 1975 by her late captain and owner, Orville Parks. She is now a floating exhibit, in sailing condition, but no longer dredges for oysters. The vessel has a beam of 16'7", a depth of 3'3" and a net register tonnage of 8. ROSIE PARKS is significant as being one of the 35 surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and for having been built by one of the best known boatbuilders in recent years, Bronza Parks. The vessel is also important as having been one of the most successful skipjacks in the annual workboat races held off of Deal Island and at Sandy Point State park. Her present use as a restored Museum educational vessel adds to her importance.

Survey No. T-522

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 2105225833

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

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1. Nan	1e (indicate pr	eferred name)		
historic RC	OSIE PARKS			
and/an aamman	Skipjack CBMM	75-53-1		,
and/or common				
Z. LOC	ation			
street & number	Mill Street		<u> </u>	not for publication
city, town S	t. Michaels	vicinity of	congressional district	
state M	laryland	county	Talbot	
3. Clas	sification			
Category  district building(s) structure site object	Ownershippublic privateboth Public Acquisitionin processbeing consideredxnot_applicable	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restrictedX yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
4. Owr	er of Prope	rty (give names an	nd mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name Ch	esapeake Bay Mariti	me Museum		
street & number	-		telephone no	.: 745-2916
city, town St	. Michaels	state	and zip code Maryla	nd 21663
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.			liber
street & number				folio
city, town			state	
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surve	ys
title				
date			federal state	county loca
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city, t <b>own</b>			-	
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7.	De	SC	rin	tion	
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Survey	No.	T-522
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This vessel is a 46.2'-long, two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. Built in Wingate, Maryland in 1955 by the noted boatbuilder Bronza Parks, she was given to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in 1975 by her late captain and owner, Orville Parks. She is now a floating exhibit, in sailing condition, but no longers dredges for oysters. Like her sister ships LADY KATIE and MARTHA LEWIS, ROSIE PARKS was built in typical Bay fashion using cross-planked construction methods, along traditional lines. She has a beam of 16'7", a depth of 3'3", and a net register tonnage of 8. The vessel has a longhead or clipper bow and a square, or transom, stern. The wooden hull is painted the traditional white.

In shape, the vessel exhibits a generous deadrise. Her bow is sharp but with little rake to the stem and there is an added longhead. The stern is square, with the rudder mounted outboard on pintles. The vessel has a hard chine, heavily rolled throughout, particularly around the transom where beading surrounds the rounded edges. There is a chock for the pushboat on the transom and davits extending over the stern.

ROSIE PARKS was built in Bay fashion using cross-planked construction. The transverse planking is stepped to the staving and transom with no feather edges. The bow is fully staved with no log or chunk filler. The vessel is mostly yellow pine planking on oak frames with some fir also used in the construction. Structural members—kné chine liner, centerboard trunk—are massive. The vessel is fastened with galvanize iron spikes and riveted rods.

There is a single mast of western fir set with about a 15° rake aft. The mast is rigged with double shrouds and a forestay and jibstay leading to the end of the bowsprit. The square bowsprit, which tapers to round at the end, is set up with two chain-and-cable bobstays and chain bowsprit shrouds. The sail rig consists of a jib-headed mainsail and a large jib. The main is laced to the boom and carried on wood hoops at the mast. It is furled by means of lazyjacks, as is the club-footed, self-tending jib. Sails are dacron and are stored ashore. In addition to the sail rig the boat can be propelled by pushboat which is carried suspended from davits over the stern.

The vessel is flush-decked, surrounded by a low, solid lograil forward and a pinrail aft, but open where the dredges are rolled aboard amidships. There are several deck structures, including: a wheelbox with a 35" wheel mounted on it; a 7.10" long by 8'6" wide cabin; a midships hatch; and a large, two-sectioned main deck hatch forward. The cabin trunk is a replacement, built after the boat was donated to the museum. Some of the decking is new as well. There is a flat sampson post on the foredeck.

The vessel is painted white with brightwork trim on the cabin and at the end of the bowsprit. The spars are also left bright. Trailboards mounted on the longhead are carved and painted with the name ROSIE PARKS in gold on a green backgroum. Trailboard decorations include the motifs of an eagle and arrows, stars and stripes, and vines and leaves. Colors are red, white, blue, gold, and black. There are also black nameboards with the name ROSIE PARKS in gold with a flower of pinwheel motif, mounted on the light of the chain bowsprit shroud.

Period	Areas of Significance	oric	cor cor ecc x edu eng exp	mmunity nservation onomics ucation gineering ploration	/ planni on g	ng	_ law _ litera _ milita _ musi _ philo	nture ary ic sophy	rchitect ernment	 _ scien _ sculp _ socia _ huma _ theat _ trans	ice oture il/ initarian
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a: App1	icable Criteria: _ nd/or icable Exception: l of Significance:	A	B B nation		D D state		F ocal	G		-	

Survey No.

8. Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This vessel is significant as being one of the 36surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and a recent member of the last commercial sailing fleet in the United States. Out of a fleet of hundreds of skipjacks that worked Bay waters in the early years of this century; today only this small number remain to carry on the tradition of working sail.

The skipjack evolved as a distinct type of Bay vessel in the 1890s as a cheaper-to-construct alternative to the earlier bugeyes and other traditional framed craft, in a period when shipbuilding costs were rising and the oyster catch was diminishing. The type was devised by enlarging (to 25 to 60 feet) the hull of the ordinary, unframed, square-sterned Bay bbing skiff, and giving it a deadrise bottom, a deck, a cabin, and a sloop rig. The result--with its unframed, hard chine, cross-planked, V-bottom--proved inexpensive to build, easy to repair, and could be constructed by a competent house carpenter. Skipjacks were specifically designed as oyster dredge boats, with wide beams and low freeboard lending stability and providing a large working space on deck. The single masted rig, with sharpheaded mainsail and large jib, was easy to handle, powerful in light winds, and handy in coming about quickly for another pass over the oyster beds.

The Maryland oyster season begins November 1 and ends March 15. Skipjacks must dredge under sail on all days except Mondays and Tuesdays, when they are allowed to use their motorized pushboat for dredging. The pushboat, normally carried on davits at the stern, is lowered into the water and literally "pushes" the skipjack along from behin, the nose of the pushboat resting agains a "jig" on the stern of the skipjack. The pushboat can also legally be used to get the skipjack to and from the oyster beds each day. Each skipjack's crew is made up of the captain, who is often also the owner, and five crew members.

ROSIE PARKS is especially significant as having been built by noted boatbuilder Bronza Parks of Wingate, Maryland, and for having enjoyed a particularly successful career in the annual Chesapeake Bay workboat races under her well-known captain, Orville Parks, brother of the boatbuilder. The son and grandson of watermen, Bronza Parks began his career as an oyster dredger, but switched to boatbuilding after constructing a crab skiff for his own use. Specializing in skiffs and power boats for both pleasure and commercial use, Parks prided himself on building no two boats alike--he tried something new and different on each. Hoping to improve on old designs, in 1955 Parks undertook the construction of three skipjacks, the last to be built on the Bay until 1979. The three vessels the ROSIE PARKS, LADY KATIE, and MARTHA LEWIS and Parks' claim to have created a

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.

T-522

Howard I. Chapelle, <u>Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks</u> (St. Michaels, Md: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, n.d.)

10. Ged	graphi	cal Data						
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List all states	and counties fo	r properties overla	oping state o	or county bou	ndaries			
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11. For	m Prep	ared By						<u>.</u>
name/title	Anne Witty/	M.E. Hayward						
organization	Maryland His	storical Society		date 5/84	· .			
street & number	201 W. Monus	ment St.		telephone	685-3	3750		
city or town	Baltimore			state <sup>Ma</sup>	ryland	21201		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Period preh 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900	istoric archeology-prehistori -1499 archeology-historic -1599 agriculture -1699 architecture -1799 art -1899 commerce	-Check and justify below ic community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settleme industry invention	J landscape architectu law literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific	dates	Builder/Architect		
check:	Applicable Criteria:			
	Applicable Exception: _	_A _B _C _D _	EFG	
	Level of Significance:	national state	local	
Prepare support	both a summary paragraph	of significance and	a general statement	of history and

superior design proved accurate, as the ROSIE PARKS became a champion in the annual workboat races. Captain Orville Parks, brother of the boatbuilder, dredged the ROSIE PARKS for 20 years and raced her up until a year before his death at age 80. Called "Captain Marvel" by his friends, Parks won most of the Deal Island workboat races and 9 out of the first 10 Chesapeake Appreciation Days skipjack races. He continued to race the boat even after he had donated her to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Bronza Parks was less fortunate in his career. He was fatally shot at his boatyard in 1958 during an argument with a client.

ROSIE PARKS is also of interest as having been built during the post World War II revival of skipjack building for the working oyster fleet. Although Parks made "improvements" in her design, she essentially followed traditional Bay design and construction methods. The vessel was one of ten skipjacks built after World War II during a boom in the oyster business, all of which are still active except the ROSIE. It is of great interest that even though these vessels were built over 50 years after the peak skipjack-building years, their design and construction methods closely followed turn-of-the-century prototypes.

Survey No. T-522

Magi No.

2105225833

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE \_\_yes x\_no

CHESAPEAKE BAY SKIPJACK FLEET THEMATIC GROUP

1. Name (indicate pres	ferred name)		
historic ROSIE PARKS			
and/or common Skipjack CBMM 7	5-53-1		
2. Location			
Chesapeake Bay Mar street & number Mill Street	itime Museum	n/a	not for publication
city, town St. Michaels	n/a_vicinity of	congressional district	First
state Maryland 024	county	Talbot 041	
3. Classification		·	
Category Ownership districtpublicbullding(s) privatestructurebothsite Public Acquisitionin processbeing consideredxnot_applicable	Status  X occupied  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  yes: restricted  x yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
4. Owner of Proper	ty (give names ar	d mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name Chesapeake Bay Maritime	e Museum		
street & number		telephone no	.: 745-2916
city, town St. Michaels	state	and zip code Maryla	and 21663
5. Location of Lega	l Descriptio	n	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	n/a		liber
street & number			folio
clty, town		state	
6. Representation i	n Existing	Historical Surve	eys
title Survey of Surviving Tradi	itional Chesapeake	Bay Craft	
date . 1983-1984		federalX state	county loca
depository for survey records Maryland	Historical Trust,	21 State Circle	
clty, town Annapolis		state	MD 21401

7. Description											
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Survey No. T-522

Condition  X excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one n/a_ original s	site date of move	n/a
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arks	
	Parks G

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(continued overleaf)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 7-522

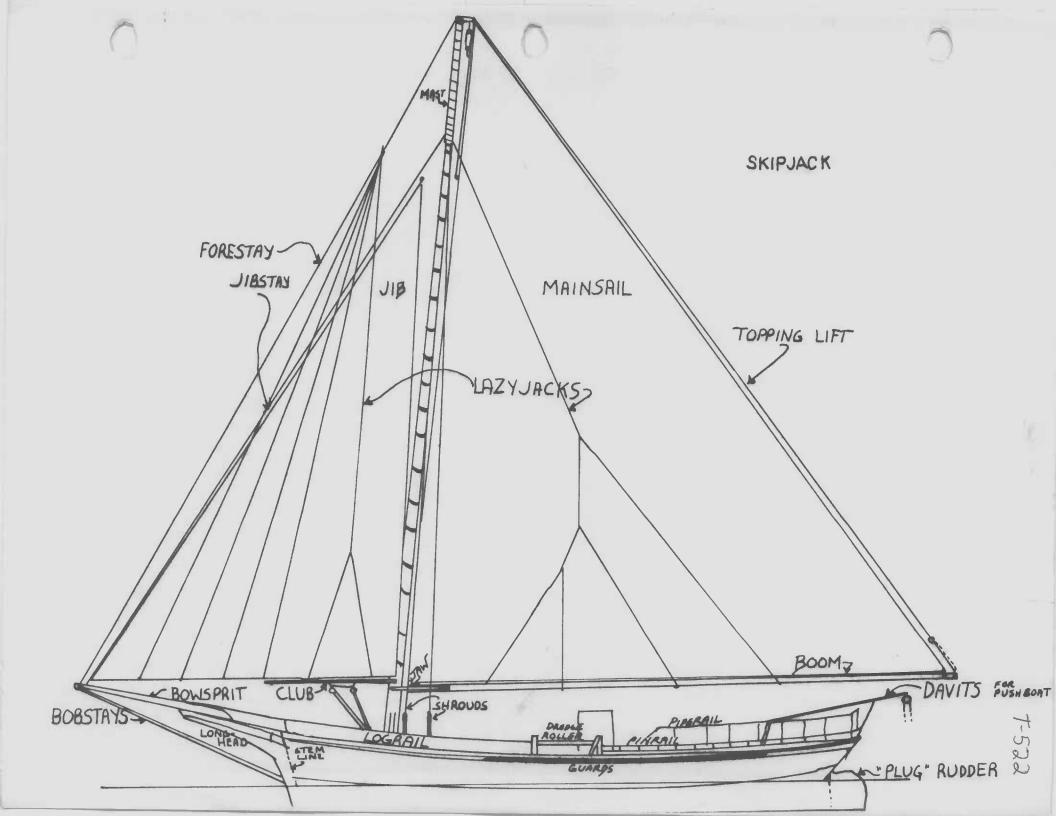
See Thematic Group nomination cover form, Continuation Sheets No. 8-13.

10. Geographic	cal Data		
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List all states and counties for	properties overlappin	g state or coun	ty boundaries
state n/a	code co	ounty	code
state	code co	ounty	code
11. Form Prepa	red By		
name/title Anne Witty/	M. E. Hayward		
Radcliffe Ma	ritime Museum		
organization Maryland His	storical Society	/ date	May, 1984
street & number 201 West Mo	onument Street	teleph	one (301) 685-3750
clty or town Baltimore		state	Maryland 21201

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Shaw House
21 State Circle
Anna-lis, Maryland 21401
(30. 269-2438





#### 367-42

T-522

ROSIE PARKS St. Michaels, Md

Bow

M.C. Wootton 5/84



# 259-16

T-522

ROSIE PARKS St. Michaels, Md

port side M. C. Wootton 10/83 100%



#### 260-12

T - 522

ROSIE PARKS St. Michaels, Md

starboard side M. C. Wootton 10/83